

Description of SOCAD

What is SOCAD?

SOCAD stands for "SOC Army Degrees." It consists of a select group of about 122 of the more than 1,600 SOC colleges. They evaluate your past learning experiences (college courses, tests, MOS's, Army schools, etc.) and provide you with a SOCAD Student Agreement that lists credits awarded and those still needed to graduate. If you relocate and must complete your degree with courses from other colleges, they guarantee to accept transfer courses from SOCAD colleges without individual approval.

How do I begin a SOCAD degree?

After you take no more than six semester hours, SOCAD schools evaluate your learning experiences and provide you with a degree plan called a SOCAD Student Agreement.

Why is the SOCAD Student Agreement important?

It gives you a comprehensive evaluation of everything you've done that can be credited toward your college degree, and it lists what you must still take to graduate. You will not have to be reevaluated each time you go to another post or college. Instead, after you complete your residency (no more than 25 percent of the program) with your home college (the one that issues your agreement), if you have to relocate, future courses at other colleges can complete your original degree plan. Keep your SOCAD Student Agreement and avoid taking unnecessary courses by referring to it each time you register. On campus, but from their offerings on base or elsewhere. If possible, satisfy residency before you are reassigned, unless you know you will return. If you find it impossible to complete residency, ask your counselor about a learning assessment degree program that requires no residency or a distance learning program that lets you satisfy residency through distance learning courses.

How do I present my MOS experience and Army service school courses to a college evaluator?

A document called the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) identifies learning acquired through military training and experience and it presents it in a uniform format consistent with official college transcripts. Your AARTS transcript also displays college-level credit recommendations developed by the American Council on Education for each of those military experiences. Soldiers and veterans can obtain a transcript without charge by completing a DA Form 5454R, Request for Army/American Council on Education Transcript, at an Army Education Center or by writing directly to: AARTS Operations Center, 415 McPherson Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-1373.

Detailed information on AARTS can be found on the AARTS Home Page at:  <https://aarts.leavenworth.army.mil> .

What if my school isn't a member of SOCAD?

A degree plan between you and your school must be in place before the completion of 9 SH. The degree plan will identify all requirements of the degree. It will include your name, social security number, and the name of your advisor. A copy of the degree plan must on file at the Fort Stewart Education Center.